

## CLAIMS

1. A communication method using an access (3) including at least one B channel (4) for transmitting voice and first data and one D channel (5) for transmitting signaling signals and second data relating to the first data to be transmitted and/or to said access, characterized in that:
- at least one additional signaling channel is constituted (9-11),
  - an order of priority of the use of the signaling channels is determined (14, 15), and
  - the highest priority functional signaling channel is assigned to the access.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the B channel for transmitting voice and first data is on a different physical medium to at least one of the D channels (5, 9, 10).
3. A method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the operational status of the highest priority signaling D channel is regularly tested (17) when said channel is not in service.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the use of one or more B channels is neutralized (23) if the D channel in service is not sufficiently functional.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that an access provides thirty B channels.
6. A method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that a channel (26) formed in a signaling path of another access is constituted as an additional D channel.

7. A method of communication in which:

- at least two accesses are used between two exchanges (1, 2) each having at least one B channel (4) for transmitting voice and data,

5 characterized in that:

- a common D channel (24, 26) is constituted for transmitting signaling signals relating to data to be transmitted and/or to said accesses,

10 

- signaling signals relating to at least two accesses are shared on said channel, and

- the two accesses are managed (23) using the signaling signals delivered by said common signaling channel.